

HALSTEAD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1962



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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and

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Rural District Council

Deputy Public Health Inspector

BRIAN A. J. TURNER

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

BERNARD J. DAVIES

D.R.S.H.

ILLTYD C. THOMAS

M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

(from 16.4.62)

Chief Clerk

PETER E. ADAMS

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General Assistant

MICHAEL CRISP

Part-time Rodent Operator

ALFRED LAUGHLIN

(to 31.8.62)

FRANK ANDREWS

(from 1.9.62)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS JOYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1962.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 6,580 and there were 97 live births and 5 still births, which gives a birth rate of 16.4 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 18.0 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the population compared with that of 11.9 for England and Wales.

Mass Radiography Survey

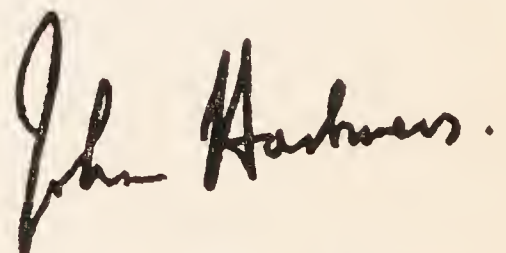
The mass radiography unit visited Halstead and district in September, and in Halstead 1,522 people were examined, 51 people were recalled for further films and of these 5 were referred to the Chest Clinic.

Infectious Diseases

There was a considerable reduction in the notifications of infectious diseases due to the drop in the number of cases of measles. This disease attacks communities at intervals of approximately two years so the reduction is unlikely to be continued unless an effective vaccine is produced in the near future. Fortunately the incidence of complications of measles is low.

Immunisation

An overdue innovation was the introduction by the County Council of a scheme for tetanus immunisation. This is conveniently done by the use of the triple vaccine (diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus) during the first year of life and booster injections at school entry and at 10 years of age. Tetanus is uncommon under the age of five years and the highest incidence is during school life. It has been estimated that there are 200-300 cases of tetanus annually with 30-40 deaths. This appreciable mortality and the problems arising from the use of anti-tetanus serum in the treatment of injured, but unprotected children, emphasise the need for a scheme of active immunisation.



Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS JOYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report, the fifth, on the services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during the year 1962.

As in previous years the Report consists mainly of statistics required by various statutory provisions, but it does illustrate how environmental public health standards have been maintained and raised by the daily insistent pressure for the remedying of unsatisfactory conditions and the securing of improved ones. The year was one of steady balanced progress, there were no particularly noteworthy happenings, and the Council services for which the Department is responsible were provided economically and efficiently.

Food

Duties in connection with the inspection and supervision of food supplies again occupied a very appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' time. The standard of hygiene on the whole was satisfactory, and no serious contraventions were observed during the year. The amount of unsound food voluntarily surrendered was about average. 100% meat inspection continued to be carried out, and this involved inspections being made during evenings and Saturday afternoons. Routine sampling of ice cream and ice lollies showed these commodities to be of a high bacterial standard.

Water

Routine sampling of water supplies confirmed the Council's mains supply to be satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically, apart from the contamination of the water mains which occurred in July. The investigation, referred to in the Report, involved an additional 43 samples being taken.

Routine sampling of the public swimming bath water showed it to be bacteriologically satisfactory, but not always to attain a high standard of clarity.

Housing

Housing in its many aspects took priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The routine repair and improvement of houses proceeded reasonably satisfactorily, and the Slum Clearance Schemes and the Improvement Grants Schemes also maintained steady progress. The proposed Trinity Square and Mount Pleasant Clearance areas, on which I reported in October and December, 1960, were still under consideration.

A special effort was made during the year to secure an increase in the numbers of houses being improved with grant aid, and details are given in the Report.

It should never be forgotten that unless the normal deterioration of existing houses, appreciable numbers of which are progressively falling steadily behind modern standards on account of age and lack of repair and improvement work, is arrested by timely reconditioning work, a serious slum clearance problem might present itself in the not too distant future.

Workplaces

Factories, Workplaces, Outworkers and Shops inspection duties did not receive the time and attention they merit, but no serious defects at these premises were notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories or by private complainants.

Waste Matters

Public sewerage and sewage disposal, and public refuse collection and disposal were included in the duties of your Surveyor. No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal, or alterations in the public cleansing service took place, but at the end of the year an extension scheme for the Langley Mill Sewage Disposal Works was being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

Miscellaneous

Complaints and investigations of the various nuisances from smoke and dust, noise, keeping of animals and poultry, etc., were about average, as were also rodent and insect pest infestations.

The miscellaneous licensed premises, Pet Shops, Rag Flock Stores and Waste Food Boiling Premises, were satisfactory.

Once again I am glad to be able to record how the preventive and protective day to day environmental public health work of the Department was encouraged by the continued interest, support and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Council, and how this work contributes so much towards promoting healthy living, reducing sickness and lessening preventable deaths. I am grateful, too, for the willing and loyal assistance of my own staff and also to other Council Officers for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Miss Joyce and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,580
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1962) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,386
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£85,572
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£331

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	91	56	35
Illegitimate	6	4	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	15.5
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	16.4
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	18.0

Still Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	5	4	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	49.0
Total births (live and still)	...	...	102

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	22.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks)				
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week)				
per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20.6
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week)				
per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	68.6
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	6.2
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	—

Deaths:

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	85	47	38
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	12.9
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	11.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	11.9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1962

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	5
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	15	4
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart disease	3	3
Other circulatory disease	0	2
Influenza	0	0
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	1
Suicide	0	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals ...	47	38

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease				Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
Dysentery	...	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	38	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	1	1	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0
Totals				40	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 1

Transfers from other Districts: 0.

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 1.

1. FOOD

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by your Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	3	6
Fish Fryers	2	4
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	2	5
General Provision Shops	40	28
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	28	27
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	5	14
Meat Shops	5	41
Poultry Dressing Premises	0	0
Public Houses and Inns	30	5
Restaurants and Cafes	4	15
Slaughterhouses	1	163
Street Vendors	0	11
Totals ...	120	319

Food premises fully surveyed	16
Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal notices served	9
Food premises improved	7
Food vehicles improved	1

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year. Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Progress in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash-hand Notices Displayed	Total
Bakehouses ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bread Distribution Depots ...	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	7
Dairies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egg & Poultry Packing Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Provision Shops	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Ice Cream Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Products Premises ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Shops ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Public Houses and Inns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restaurants and Cafes	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	8
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Food Vehicles ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals ...	5	4	2	1	2	4	2	3	3	0	4	30

(c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on four days per week including Saturday afternoons.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected for fitness of the meat for human consumption either during or shortly after slaughter.

Details of meat inspection carried out by your Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	355	0	3	1104	501	0
No. Inspected	355	0	3	1104	501	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	1	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	0	0	2	3	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	3.10	0	0	0.18	0.80	0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	4	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0.80	0
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen 9.

(d) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	183lbs.
Pork	240lbs.
Mutton	3lbs.
Fish	14lbs.
Tinned Foods	359lbs.

Total 799lbs.

This condemned food was disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

(e) **Milk and Dairies**

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licences were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling and also sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council.

The 5 registered dairy premises were all visited by your Public Health Inspectors during the year.

(f) **Ice Cream**

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	12	Excellent	12
II	3	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	0
IV	0	Fair	3
		Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 15		Total 15

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Excellent	3
V. Satisfactory	4
Satisfactory	1
Fair	0
Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 8

(g) **General**

Only one complaint was received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises. There is, however, a well known marked reticence on the part of the public generally in making official complaints regarding these matters.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc., but details of such sampling were not notified to the Urban District Council.

2. WATER

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity, although during the summer months it was necessary to restrict the use of water for gardens, washing cars, etc. Water from the Council's Undertaking was not treated by chlorination or softening.

Improvements to the Council's Undertaking by the provision of a new reservoir at Oak Road and new pumping and distribution mains were approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and submitted to public tender at the end of the year.

As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination and included some of the raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

A routine sample taken in July was found to contain appreciable bacterial impurity and to be unsatisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes. Further samples were immediately taken from the borewell and all parts of the water distribution system, and showed no pollution of the well, but contamination of the tower, booster station tanks and mains in widely varying amounts. The tower and booster station tanks were found to be in need of cleansing and sterilisation. Temporary chlorination was carried out by manual bulk dosing of the water in the tower. Investigation and sampling was carried out until the end of August when all parts of the water distribution system were free from contamination, and the supply was again wholesome and suitable for domestic purposes. During the investigation 43 samples of water were taken and it was considered that the main source of contamination might have arisen in the locality of Kings Road from negative pressure in the distribution system, probably, though not necessarily, through defective pipes.

During the year the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	17
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	5
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	57

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains ...	56	40	16
Private Water Mains ...	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc. ...	1	1	0
Private Wells, etc. ...	0	0	0
Totals ...	57	41	16

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	265
Turbidity	0	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	30
Colour	0	Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.2
Odour	7.3	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Absent
pH	24	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.000
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	750	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Electric Conductivity ...	500	Oxygen Absorbed ...	0.10
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.		Metals: Iron	0.04
Chlorine present as Chloride	78	Zinc	Absent
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	265	Copper, Lead, Manganese, etc	Absent
Hardness: Total ...	295	Fluorine ...	0.7

Public Swimming Baths.

The Council's public swimming baths were again used during May to September, each week from Friday to Tuesday, being emptied Wednesdays and filled Thursdays with water from the Council's undertaking. Hand chlorination was carried out, and as a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

During the open season, 20 routine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be suitable for bathing purposes with the exception of one sample taken in June. 20 samples were also taken for chemical analysis and three failed to attain a high standard of clarity due partly to iron content, though the turbidity was not excessive.

3. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	219
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	63
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	147
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	2
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	1
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings	3
(7)	Miscellaneous Housing inspections	187
(8)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies ...	4

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects ...	39
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act, regarding disrepair and defects	0

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses.

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses Officially Reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	8
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1962)	
	(i) to make fit for human habitation	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	10
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	2
	(b) Closing Orders determined	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1962)	
	1962)	12
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	0
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1962)	
	1962)	18
(5)	(a) Clearance Orders made	0
	(b) Accumulated total of outstanding Clearance Orders (Dec., 1962)	
	... ..	0

(d) **Slum Clearance Proposals**

Details of the Council's ten years 1956/65 Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year by year progress made, and
- (3) the present position.

(1)

Houses in District	Unfit Houses	Houses to be demolished during 5 year period 1956/60
2,265	132	49

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Clearance Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	3
1958	4	2	0	1	0	1	11
1959	23	0	0	4	18	6	16
1960	46	0	5	2	0	2	7
1961	22	0	2	16	0	1	16
1962	8	0	2	0	0	0	7
Totals	143	16	25	34	18	10	60

(3)

Total Houses in Slum Clearance Proposals 31.12.55.	Unfit Houses Considered by Council and subject to						Unfit Houses made fit or demolished	Unfit Houses awaiting Report to Council	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Clearance Orders	Action Pending				Total
					Deferred by Council	Other			
132 + 18	10	12	18	0	37	3	80	70	0
Total Houses Occupied 20	2	7	11	0					

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	35
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"	8
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices	0
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices	0
(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders	0
(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	7

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	3
(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved (for £620)	3
(3) Schemes completed	4

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949 to 1954	0	0	—	0	—
1955	14	7	£1,231. 12. 10.	6	£1,036. 12. 4.
1956	0	0	—	1	£195. 0. 6.
1957	0	0	—	0	—
1958	0	0	—	0	—
1959	5	5	£689. 0. 0.	2	£240. 0. 0.
1960	9	9	£1,649. 0. 0.	5	£759. 0. 0.
1961	4	4	£832. 0. 0.	6	£1,171. 0. 0.
1962	3	3	£620. 0. 0.	4	£649. 0. 0.
Totals	35	28	£5,021. 12. 10.	24	£4,050. 12. 10.

(4) Applications for Standard Grants	10
(5) Standard Grants approved (for maximum of £1,520)	10
(6) Schemes completed	4

Details regarding Standard Grants are given in the following table

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	5	5	£570	0	—	—
1960	11	11	£1,370	9	£1,050	£693. 16. 6.
1961	10	10	£1,065	15	£1,765	£1,254. 1. 3.
1962	10	10	£1,520	4	£610	£478. 3. 5.
Totals	36	36	£4,525	28	£3,425	£2,426. 1. 2.

(7) Houses subject to Grants were occupied as follows:—

Year	Improvement Grants			Standard Grants		
	Owner	Tenant	Total	Owner	Tenant	Total
1949 to 1954	0	0	0			
1955	3	4	7			
1956	0	0	0			
1957	0	0	0			
1958	0	0	0			
1959	3	2	5	4	1	5
1960	1	8	9	9	2	11
1961	4	0	4	9	1	10
1962	3	0	3	8	2	10
Totals	14	14	28	30	6	36

(8) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses ... 0

(With a view to increasing the numbers of houses improved with grant aid, during the year 127 various appropriate houses in different parts of the District were visited of which 25 owner/occupied and 13 tenanted already had the improved amenities and 44 owner/occupied and 45 tenanted lacked them. The reasons given why the houses were not being improved with grant aid are summarised in the following table:—

Reasons given why houses not improved	Number of houses	
	Owner/Occupied	Tenanted
Owner not aware of availability of grants	0	0
Owner not willing or not able to pay cost ...	39	27
Tenant not willing or not able to pay increased rent	0	9
Occupier not willing to be disturbed	2	6
Owner proposing to sell property	2	3
Grant application already made	1	0
TOTALS	44	45

While it was not possible accurately to assess the effect of these personal approaches to owners and tenants, the indications were that the present rate of progress under the existing grants schemes would not be materially increased thereby. In my opinion, increased general and particular publicity is helpful but alone will not achieve the desired progress, which is really dependant upon either the present voluntary grants schemes being made sufficiently attractive or statutory enforceable grants schemes being introduced.

(g) **Rent Act**

(1) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(2) Decisions to issue Certificates	...	...	0
(3) Undertakings given by Landlords	...	...	0
(4) Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	0
(5) Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(6) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(7) Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	...	0

(h) **Housing Overcrowding**

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1961	...	...	0
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1962	...	...	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1962	...	...	0
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1962	...	...	0

(i) **Caravan Sites**

There were no caravan site licences in force in the District.

4. WORKPLACES

(a) **Inspections and Notices**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	19	15	0	0
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	46	24	1	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) ...	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	65	39	1	0

(b) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act 'not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	1	1	0	0	0

(c) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134		Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—Making, etc. ...	1	0	0	0	0	2

(d) Miscellaneous

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ...	...	...	...	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation ...	...	...	...	0

5. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District were reasonably adequate, but it became increasingly apparent that enlargement would be required to deal with increasing sewage flows from the existing steady development and anticipated future growth of the town.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal or important additions to existing works were carried out, but at the end of the year the first part of a scheme for the extension of the Langley Mill Sewage Disposal Works was in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

Three inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers following complaints.

(b) Drainage.

1. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	...	...	4
2. Drainage inspections	...	...	19
3. Inspections of ditches, etc	...	...	2
4. Drainage tests	...	...	0
5. Informal notices served	...	...	3
6. Statutory notices served	...	...	0

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, one drain was reconstructed, and two drains cleansed.

(c) Sanitary Fittings

Ten informal notices were served regarding sanitary conveniences, and as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors four sanitary conveniences were reconstructed or repaired.

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Sible Hedingham in the Halstead Rural District.

Three inspections of the refuse dump, and 22 inspections regarding refuse accumulations and storage were made. Two informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulations and seven regarding provision of dustbins.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors two refuse accumulations were removed and six dustbins provided.

6. PESTS

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestation. Seven inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors in connection with insect pests and four premises were disinfested in respect of ants, carpet beetles, flies and wasps.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of private and business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	¹ Local Authority	² Dwelling Houses Inc. Council Houses	³ All other (Inc. Business Premises)	⁴ Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in District	11	2,299	541	2,851	17
II. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification Number of such properties found to be infested by:—	0	4	2	6	0
Common rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	4	2	6	0
Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0
House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0
III. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act ... Number of such properties found to be infested by:—	11	60	5	76	0
Common rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	3	0	3	0
Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0
House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0
IV. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) Number of such properties found to be infested by:—	0	149	43	192	3
Common rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	3	1	4	0
Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0
House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0	0	0

V. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	23	224	64	311	5
VI. Number of infested properties (in Sections II, III & IV) treated by the L.A. ...	0	4	2	6	0
VII. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments.	0	4	2	6	0
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ...	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	0	0	0	0	0
IX. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	0	0	0	0	0
X. Legal Proceedings	0	0	0	0	0
XI. Number of “Block” control schemes carried out	None				

Major infestations — 20 to 100 rats.

Minor infestations — 1 to 20 rats.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a)	Smoke and dust nuisances					
	(i)	investigations	...	...	...	8
	(ii)	confirmed	...	...	...	2
	(iii)	abated	...	...	...	2
(b)	Noise nuisances					
	(i)	investigations	...	...	...	5
	(ii)	confirmed	...	...	...	1
	(iii)	abated	...	...	...	1
(c)	Keeping of animals and poultry nuisances					
	(i)	investigations	...	...	...	17
	(ii)	confirmed	...	...	...	2
	(iii)	abated	...	...	...	2
(d)	Notifiable diseases					
	(i)	investigations	...	...	...	0
	(ii)	premises disinfected	...	...	...	0
(e)	Pet Shops					
	(i)	licenses granted	...	...	...	1
	(ii)	inspections	...	...	...	4
(f)	Rag Flock Stores					
	(i)	licences granted	...	...	...	1
	(ii)	inspections	...	...	...	2
(g)	Waste Foods Boiling premises					
	(i)	licences granted	...	...	...	1
	(ii)	inspections	...	...	...	6
(h)	The following special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year:—					
	(i) Improvement of Houses under Grants Schemes.					
(i)	Miscellaneous housing matters					
	There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.					
(j)	Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges register					105
(k)	Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined ...					6
(l)	Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.					

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